

**Date: July 8, 2004**

**To: Oregon State Board of Agriculture**

**From: Coos and Coquille Local Advisory Committee and Tim Stevenson, Water Quality Planner**

**Re: Biennial Review Report**

---

## **I. Purpose**

The Coos and Coquille Local Advisory Committee (LAC) is submitting this report to the Board of Agriculture to summarize implementation of the Coos and Coquille Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan and Rules, as required in Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 603-090-0020(4).

## **II. Introduction**

Senate Bill 1010 requires that the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) develop and implement an Area Plan and Rules wherever such a Plan is required by state or federal law.

The Coos and Coquille Agricultural Water Quality Management Area consists of non-Federal and non-Tribal Trust lands in the Coos and Coquille drainages. The area described as the “Coos and Coquille” is not quite bounded by the Coos County boundaries. All the drainages under the plan total 1764 sq. miles. Coos County encompasses a total of 1,629 sq. miles.

An Area Plan and Rules were required for the Coos and Coquille Agricultural Water Quality Management Area because Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) were being developed by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for temperature, nutrients, sediment, and bacteria. Agriculture is required to provide reasonable assurance that it will meet its load allocations for listed parameters. Stream segments were also listed on DEQ’s 2002 303(d) list of water quality limited waterbodies for dissolved oxygen, pH, and algae. Coho salmon are listed as an “endangered species” in southern Oregon and northern California in what is known as the Oregon and Pacific Coast ESUs by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association - Fisheries Service.

In late 2001, the LAC, working with ODA and the Coos Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) completed the Area Plan and Rules. The rules were adopted in March 2002 under the guidance of Dave Messerle, LAC Chair, Laura Tesler, ODA Water Quality Planner, and Mike Wolf, ODA Water Quality Program Leader. ODA then worked with the Coos SWCD, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), OSU Cooperative Extension, private landowners, and other partners to implement the Area Plan and Rules.

## **III. Background**

When developing the Coos and Coquille Area Plan and Rules, the LAC identified several objectives that, if achieved, would significantly improve water quality in the Management Area. The LAC then developed rules that had to be met on all agricultural and rural lands. Each rule was intended to prevent pollution as close to the source as possible, and to meet agriculture’s expected load allocations in the TMDL.

**The mission statement for the Coos and Coquille AgWQMAP adopted by the LAC is:**

- to identify ways to reduce agricultural water pollution in the Coos and Coquille area. It is intended that implementation of the plan be focused on voluntary efforts to address water quality concerns. To the greatest degree possible, prevention and control of agricultural pollution will be encouraged in a cooperative spirit through the voluntary efforts of landowners, aided by information and technical and financial assistance from local, state, and federal agencies and others.

**The objectives of the Coos and Coquille AgWQMAP are:**

- to maintain, to protect, and to improve water quality.
- to encourage the voluntary development of farm plans for all agricultural producers.
- to raise public awareness of agriculture's contribution to improving water quality.
- to provide public education about positive management practices and implementation.
- to encourage and assist landowners in developing monitoring plans that will continue to reinforce the idea of water quality improvement in the Coos, Coquille, and Tenmile watersheds.

**Summary of the high points of the 2001 Coos and Coquille AgWQMAP**

The LAC developed a series of pollution control and prevention guidelines specifically for the Coos and Coquille basins. This section was developed around the water quality standards listed in the Coos and Coquille basins which are directly affected by agricultural activity; for example, sedimentation, nutrients, bacteria, and temperature. For each of these parameters, the committee identified:

- information about the parameter to provide basic understanding of the reason for concern.
- a statement identifying the unacceptable condition that will be reflected in the Oregon Department of Agriculture Administrative Rules.
- steps that will be taken by the Oregon Department of Agriculture when investigating a complaint.
- examples of situations that could lead to an unacceptable condition. These examples are provided to alert landowners and managers to potential problems, rather than to prescribe particular treatments.

Also, a list of educational and project oriented objectives were identified.

**IV. Summary of Coos and Coquille local management agency activities to achieve the stated objectives (Coos SWCD)**

As described in the plan, Coos County SWCD is the Local Management Agency for the Coos and Coquille Plan. Part of Douglas county and therefore Douglas SWCD is also within the plan boundary. Coos SWCD directors and employees have worked closely with ODA, NRCS, and OSU Extension to hire competent technicians, coordinators, monitoring services, workshop presenters, and initiate mass media campaigns. Prior to plan implementation, Coos SWCD hired someone who was primarily an outreach and education coordinator. The following accomplishments reflect that role.

**Coos SWCD LMA Summary 2002-2004 (Bessie Joyce - Outreach Coordinator)**

**Newsletters**—10 *Watershed Ag Journal* newsletters produced and distributed. Each mailing consisted of approximately 480. Newsletters are also distributed at local feed stores.

**Newspaper articles**—Newspaper articles related to the Coos & Coquille AgWQM Plan, submitted by the Outreach Coordinator, appeared 20 times in local papers.

**Display ads**—Ads describing the AgWQM Plan and how to obtain more information appeared 13 times in local newspapers.

**Mass mail postcard**—One mailing was sent to 1338 agricultural landowners in Plan area. The card, mailed just after Plan adoption, explained what the Coos & Coquille AgWQM Plan is and how to obtain more information.

**4 Workshops Coordinated**—(parentheses indicate how many attended) co-coordinated two Free Money For Smart Farming workshops (50) (32) with displays and presentations, an Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan workshop (15), and a display and presentation at Horse Keeping and Clean Water (6).

**14 Presentations or displays to groups**—(parentheses indicate how many attended) display at Well and Septic Maintenance workshop (22), presentation to Oregon Equestrian Trails (19), display at Ranching and Water Quality workshop (45), display at 2002 Coos County Fair, presentation at Southwest Basin Team meeting, presentation and display to Coos Head Organic Growers (20), presentation and display to (two times different years) Oregon Tilth Growers (21)(7), display at Weed Control workshop, presentation to Coquille Watershed Association, presentation to Coos Watershed Association, 3 separate presentations and displays at Lakeside (6), Bandon (8), and Camas Valley (39).

**Website**—the Outreach Coordinator has maintained the Coos SWCD website, [www.coosswcd.oacd.org](http://www.coosswcd.oacd.org), including information about the Coos & Coquille AgWQM Plan.

**Posters**—an 11x17" poster/flier was produced with an area map and information about the Coos & Coquille AgWQM Plan.

**Coordination with other agencies**—the Outreach Coordinator has provided AgWQM Plan presentations to both the Coos and the Coquille Watershed Councils and the NRCS Southwest Basin Team. The Outreach Coordinator has co-coordinated water quality workshops with NRCS, Curry SWCD, Coos, Coquille and Tenmile Watershed Councils, OSU Extension, DEQ and ODF&W.

**Fact Sheets**—8 fact sheets about the AgWQM Plan were produced in bulk and are distributed to specific fact sheet display racks at 4 feed stores and 2 offices (SWCD and OSU Extension).

**Clearinghouse of Info**—the SWCD and NRCS have served the local agricultural community as resources of technical information related to positive management practices.

**Archive for LAC**—the Outreach Coordinator has coordinated and archived all LAC correspondence and LAC meetings and meeting records.

**Farm plans**—12 new farm plans have been developed and signed by the SWCD in the last two years. Encouragement of voluntary farm plans is always part of Coos & Coquille AgWQM Plan presentations and outreach.

**Grant projects developed by the Coos SWCD**—approved grants in the last two years include the Conservation Technician grant funded by OWEB/ODA, the South Fork Coquille Riparian Fence and Plant project (3 landowners) funded by OWEB, wrap-up of the Heavy Use Area and Pasture Management project funded by OWEB, 6 Small Grant Team projects funded by OWEB, 1 SWCD Small Grant funded by OWEB. There is currently the Lower South Fork Coquille Reach-Based Riparian Restoration project proposal approved for partial funding by DEQ 319, however, it lacks full funding.

**Employment of a Farm Planner and other staff**—during this time the SWCD has steadily employed a part-time District Administrator, a part-time Outreach Coordinator, 3 consecutive full-time Watershed Technical Specialists, and employed a full-time Conservation Technician for 9 months in 2003. Currently, the District Administrator, Outreach Coordinator, and a Watershed Technical Specialist (WTS) work for the SWCD. The main objective of the WTS is to produce farm plans.

**Water quality complaints**—there have been a total of 4 informal complaints lodged with the SWCD and summarized as follows. Summer 2002, excavation of stream referred to Army Corps of Engineers and DSL. Fall 2002, logging roadwork found to be violation of Forest Practices Act and referred to ODF. Winter 2003, horses in creek—number of horses was reduced. Summer 2003, anonymous complaint to district alleged cow manure in creek—districts drove by and observed no violation. Since it was an anonymous complaint, there was no way to respond to the complainant.

**Coos SWCD Watershed Technical Specialist activities (Pat Jones, Larry Gill, Matt Drechsel)**

Customers assisted column includes only those that received assistance with practices that benefit water quality, or riparian areas.

Total acres reflects land that was inventoried, evaluated and planned under a resource management system where water quality was a resource concern.

AFO/CAFO column provides an estimate of acres where planning assistance addressed resource concerns related to dairies or other confined animal feeding operations. This typically includes a waste management system, nutrient management and waste utilization.

RFB acres column represents areas adjacent to streams that were protected by excluding livestock and improved by planting native trees.

| Year | # of customers | Total acres | AFO/CAFO ac. | RFB acres |
|------|----------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|
| 2001 | 18             | 1501        | 849          | 28        |
| 2002 | 27             | 1155        | 400          | 35        |
| 2003 | 3              | 329         | 315          | 112       |
| 2004 | 16             | 300         | 300          | 5         |

**The Natural Resource Conservation Service reported the following projects on agricultural lands:**

6.5 miles of fencing and planting projects  
49.6 acres of riparian plantings

Along with the Coos SWCD and NRCS partners, several projects have taken place on agricultural lands supervised by three separate watershed councils, Coos, Coquille, and Ten Mile. These on-the-ground partners are vital in helping agricultural landowners protect their resources and help themselves.

**The Ten Mile Watershed Council projects on agricultural lands:**

**ON THE GROUND PROJECTS:**

Riparian fencing: 4 miles completed and monitoring  
2 miles upcoming in June 04  
Riparian Plantings: Approximately 8 miles of riparian areas planted with native mix (spruce/alder/maple)  
Bank Stabilization sites: 5 sites: 2 large wood and 3 brush mattresses  
4 to be completed summer 04  
Off stream watering: 3 sites  
Heavy use areas: 2 Small Grant projects: Big Creek Nutrient Management and Noble Cr. Nutrient Management  
Sediment Abatement: 22 projects completed with approximately 5,000 cubic yards permanently removed

Seeding/Erosion Control Program: Ongoing cost-share program assisting agricultural and Forestry landowners with seeding exposed soils

OTHER PROJECTS:

Nutrient Budget Study Phase I and II

Riparian Assessment

Water Quality Implementation Plan development (completion date Dec 04)

Purple Loosestrife controls

Water Quality Outreach programs

Stream Temperature Monitoring - 24 sites, 17 on agricultural lands

**Coos Watershed Assoc. Accomplishments on Agricultural Riparian Areas (2001-2004)**

Just Fencing- 500 ft.

Just Planting- 2.7 miles

Both Fencing and Planting Together-3.5 miles

**Complaints**

Since plan adoption, ODA has received only two written complaints, both anonymously, in the Coos and Coquille planning area. ODA responded by passing them to the Coos SWCD technicians. They conducted visits and phone calls. In one case, with the help of the SWCD, the threat to water quality has been alleviated. The other case is still ongoing. One other formal complaint was lodged after the LAC biennial review meeting. That investigation is also ongoing.

**V. Coos and Coquille AgWQMAP and Rules Review Process**

In April of 2004, as required by OAR 603-090-0020, the LAC met to conduct the first periodic review and update of their Area Plan and Rules. Management Area landowners representing agricultural commodities (cattle, dairy, cranberries, hay, sheep, and horses) serve on the LAC. Other interests include timber owners and oyster growers. The LAC reviewed the progress and effectiveness of the Area Plan and Rules in preventing and controlling water pollution from agricultural activities in the Management Area. They also reviewed the compliance issues initiated in the past two years. The Basin Coordinator for DEQ, Pam Blake, commented on the objectives of the upcoming TMDLs. Based on that evaluation, the LAC recommended no change to the rules with only slight modifications to the plan. Those modifications follow:

Page 9 Change dates of TMDL completion to 2006 from 2005

Page 26 Implementation and Public Participation

-wording and tense changes were made to reflect evolving role of LMA and interactions with the public.

By the time of the next review in 2006, DEQ will have completed TMDLs for the Ten Mile and Coos and Coquille basins as well as what is known as the "Sixes Fourth" by DEQ.

**VI. Conclusions**

The Coos and Coquille LAC once again had discussions on the regulatory role of the ODA and the SWCD staff. They were informed of procedures for "retiring" from the LAC but all present expressed a desire to remain engaged. The Coos SWCD directors and staff also remain committed to the intent and

implementation of SB1010 in their region. They have added new directors who are very familiar with the SB1010 plan development in their area.